

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~to enhance group communication within a network using presence information~~, comprising:

- maintaining presence information associated with a group of terminals;
- maintaining presence information associated with each member of the group of terminals; and
- activating a group communication channel from a first member of the group of terminals to available terminals within the group of terminals, wherein programmable availability rules determine a composite group availability ~~is determined~~ using presence information associated with the group of terminals and presence information associated with each member of the group of terminals.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein presence information associated with each member of the group of terminals is maintained within a server coupled to the network.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 ~~[[3]]~~, wherein the programmable availability rules includes location information associated with each member of the group of terminals.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the presence information is communicated to the first member of the group of terminals by the server.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the group availability is determined by the first member in response to the programmable availability rules.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the programmable availability rules includes location information associated with each member of the group of terminals.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein activating the group communication channel includes transmitting an instant message from the first member to the available terminals.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein activating the group communication channel includes synchronizing a calendar entry of the first member with calendar entries of the available terminals.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein activating the group communication channel includes synchronizing a task list of the first member with task lists of the available terminals.

11. (Currently amended) A ~~presence-enhanced group communication~~ system, comprising:
terminals coupled through a network to form a group; and
presence servers coupled to the network and adapted to maintain presence information associated with each of the terminals and adapted to maintain composite presence information associated with the group, the terminals comprising:

a group presence module adapted to communicate with the presence servers to maintain availability status of the group and each terminal within the group, wherein a group communication channel is established in response to the availability status, and wherein the group presence module comprises programmable availability rules that use the presence information associated with each of the terminals to determine the composite availability status of the group.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~presence-enhanced group communication~~ system according to Claim 11, further comprising location servers coupled to the network and adapted to maintain location information associated with each terminal of the group.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~presence-enhanced group communication~~ system according to Claim 12, wherein the terminals further comprise a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) module to facilitate communication with the presence servers and location servers.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~presence-enhanced group communication~~ system according to Claim 13, wherein the group presence module is further adapted to determine the availability status from the presence information and location information associated with each terminal.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising: ~~mobile terminal wirelessly coupled to~~
a transceiver capable of communicating via a network which includes a group of
~~mobile terminals wirelessly coupled to the network;~~ ~~the mobile terminal comprising:~~
a memory capable of storing at least one of a group presence module and a protocol module;
a processor coupled to the memory and configured by the group presence module to:
formulate an availability status associated with each member of the group of mobile terminals;
and
formulate, using programmable availability rules, a composite availability status of the
group based on the availability status associated with each member of the group of mobile
terminals; and
[[a]]wherein the transceiver is configured to facilitate content exchange with available
members of the group, the available members being selected in accordance with their
availability status.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the protocol module includes a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) module.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the content exchange includes an instant message exchange.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus mobile terminal~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the content exchange includes a calendar synchronization.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus mobile terminal~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the content exchange includes a task list synchronization.

20. (Currently amended) A computer-~~usable~~readable medium having instructions stored thereon which are executable by a mobile terminal for establishing a group communication channel with a group of mobile terminals in a network by performing steps comprising:

- accumulating presence information associated with the group and each member of the group of mobile terminals;

- determining availability of each member using the accumulated presence information;

- determine, using programmable availability rules, a composite availability status of the group based on the availability status associated with each member of the group of mobile terminals;

- displaying the composite availability of ~~each member of the group~~; and

- creating the group communication channel in response to programmable rules of availability.

21. (Currently amended) The computer-~~usable~~readable medium of Claim 20, performing steps further comprising displaying a summary of availability associated with the group of mobile terminals.

22. (Currently amended) The computer-~~usable~~readable medium of Claim 20, wherein creating the group communication channel comprises:

- determining the communication status requested by each member; and

- transmitting information to each member in accordance with the requested communication status.

23. (Currently amended) The computer-usable ~~readable~~ medium of Claim 22, wherein transmitting the information includes transmitting an instant message.

24. (Currently amended) The computer-usable ~~readable~~ medium of Claim 22, wherein transmitting the information includes synchronizing an electronic calendar of the mobile terminal with an electronic calendar of each member.

25. (Currently amended) The computer-usable ~~readable~~ medium of Claim 22, wherein transmitting the information includes synchronizing an electronic task list of the mobile terminal with an electronic task list of each member.

26. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~server coupled to a network to facilitate presence based group communication, the server~~ comprising:

- means for accumulating presence information relating to a group;
- means for accumulating presence information relating to each member of the group;
- means for providing the group presence and member presence information in response to requests received for the presence information; and
- means for determining a composite availability status of the group ~~and based on the presence information of each member of the group, and further~~ in response to programmable rules of availability received from one of the members of the group.

27. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~server~~ according to Claim 26, further comprising means for accumulating location information relating to each member of the group.

28. (Currently amended) A computer-usable ~~readable~~ medium having instructions stored thereon which are executable by a server to facilitate group communication by performing steps comprising:

- accumulating presence information relating to a group;
- accumulating presence information relating to each member of the group;

providing the group presence and member presence information in response to requests received for the presence information; and

determining a composite availability status of the group ~~and~~ based on the presence information of each member of the group, and further in response to programmable rules of availability received from one of the members of the group.

29. (Currently amended) The computer- usable ~~readable~~ medium according to Claim 28, performing steps further comprising accumulating location information relating to each member of the group.

30. (Currently amended) A method ~~of managing presence information associated with a group to establish a communication channel with the group,~~ comprising:

activating an information field associated with ~~the~~ a group to establish a communication channel with the group;

monitoring presence information associated with members of the group;

determining ~~an~~ a composite availability status of the group using based on applying programmable rules of availability that use the presence information associated with the members of the group; and

communicating the composite availability status via the information field to the group in response to ~~its~~ determining the composite availability status.

31. (Original) The method according to Claim 30, wherein activating the information field comprises activating an instant message portal to generate the information field.

32. (Original) The method according to Claim 30, wherein activating the information field comprises activating an entry within an electronic calendar.

33. (Original) The method according to Claim 30, wherein activating the information field comprises activating an entry within an electronic task list.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The method according to Claim 30, wherein communicating the information field further comprises determining the communication status requested by each member of the group.

36. (Original) The method according to Claim 35, wherein the communication status comprises a communication preference to be used when communicating the information field.

37. (Original) The method according to Claim 36, wherein the communication preference comprises one of an email preference, a voice call preference, a Short Message Service (SMS) preference, and an Instant Message (IM) preference.